

Key Projected Dates in the implementation of Title I and Title II

We invite you to review the calendar and note the timelines and deadlines for participating in the new Title I program as well as the new Medicare Advantage program.

Please note CMS has posted dates for 2006.

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(Revised March 15, 2005)

2005	
<i>February</i>	<p>3 – 4 MA/PD - MA/PD application training—New Orleans Part D and MA training concurrent on both days Agenda at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/healthplans/training</p> <p>15 MA- Final date to submit a 2005 application for coordinated care plan, including local PPOs, for approval by June 1, 2005. Applicants will be asked to upload their 2005 ACRP within 7-10 days following CMS receipt of the application. This is also the final date to submit a local PPO application to be effective before the 2006-2007 local PPO moratorium.</p> <p>18 MA/Drug Benefit – Deadline for “Notice of Intent to Apply” by stand-a-lone PDPs, new MA contractors and regional PPOs. Release 45 Day Advance notice on MA methodological payment changes and payments under Part D.</p>

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<i>March</i>	<p>1 MA – Final day for current contractors to submit a request for a Special Needs Plan. Final day to submit a 2005 application for a MA service area expansion for approval by June 1 2005. Applicants will be asked to upload their 2005 ACRP within 7-10 days following CMS receipt of the application. We will allow for a later effective date, up to and including September 1, 2005 providing all application requirements, including the submission of an ACRP, have been met by June 1. Note: Local PPOs will not be permitted to expand their service area during 2006 and 2007.</p> <p>10 AHIP March Conference in Washington, D.C., Mark Hamelburg, Director, Employer Policy Operations Group, presenting.</p> <p>17 Health Plans Open Door Forum – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>23 MA – Final day to submit 2006 applications (HMO, regional PPOs, PFFS, SAEs) for an effective date of January 1, 2006.</p> <p>23 Drug Benefit – Final day to submit Part D applications (PDP, MA-PD and cost contractors).</p> <p>23 Employer Waivers – Notice of intent (for employer/union directly contracting as a PDP or MA-PD) to apply must be submitted to CMS.</p> <p>28 MA/Drug Benefit – CMS begins accepting CY 2006 formularies via HPMS.</p>
<p><i>Note: Regional PPO applicants must be determined to be able to meet eligibility requirements in time to submit their June 6th bids. CMS will review Regional PPO applications and related requirements and work with the applicants on a case-by-case basis. Other MA applicants must be determined to have met eligibility requirements in time to submit their June 6th bids.</i></p>	

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<i>April</i>	<p>4 MA- Announcement of MA capitation rates, MA local area benchmarks and adjustment factors for 2006. Due date for new 2005 mid-year plan proposals that involve either a new or re-structured provider network. Request should be sent to the applicable regional office for approval. Also See April 29th entry below for ACR due date. This is not applicable to Special Needs plans that were due March 1 (but see April 29th entry).</p> <p>4 – 5 Bidders Conference, Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>8 MA/Drug Benefit – Release of 2006 Plan Benefit Package (PBP) and Bid Pricing Tool (BPT) software and technical instructions in HPMS.</p> <p>18 MA/Drug Benefit- Final day to submit CY 2006 formularies via HMPS.</p> <p>18 Employer Waivers – PDP or MA-PD applications must be submitted to CMS.</p> <p>29 MA- Due date for ACRs and applicable marketing material for approved mid-year plans. This due date is also applicable for new 2005 mid-year plans that are to be offered under existing provider network, i.e. where no pre-approval is required (see April 4th entry above). We will also accept ACRs for new Special Needs plans that had previously been submitted on March 1 and subsequently approved.</p> <p>30 Release letter to all organizations with 2006 enrollment and payment instructions.</p>

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<i>May</i>	<p>10 Health Plans Open Door Forum – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>20 Drug Benefit- CMS begins accepting 2006 PBP and BPT upload into HPMS. MA -CMS begins accepting CY 2006 Bids via HPMS</p> <p>31 Begin mailings to potential LIS eligibles (SSA) and deemed beneficiaries.</p>
<i>June</i>	<p>1 Employer Waivers – due date for ACRs</p> <p>6 MA/Drug Benefit- Final day for MA organizations to submit CY 2006 Bids, including Part D, via HPMS</p> <p>6 Employer Waivers – PDP or MA-PD formularies must be submitted to CMS. Drug Benefit – Part D bids are due for all plans offering Part D (including PACE and cost plans).</p> <p>7 MA-MA Organizations should begin to submit ANOCs and SBs for initial review. Cost - Medicare Cost plans should begin to submit ANOCs and SBs for review and approval prior to the posting of Medicare Personal Plan Finder.</p> <p>20-30 Mailing to deemed beneficiaries.</p> <p>30 MA/Cost-Final day for Medicare Advantage organizations and Medicare cost plans to submit (CY 2005 Marketing materials for CMS's review and approval. MA- CMS distributes CY 2006 Summary of Benefits instructions to the industry.</p> <p>30 Drug Card – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$450.</p>

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<i>July</i>	<p>Drug Benefit – Drug claims training for Part D providers begins—will occur once per week in 4 locations.</p> <p>14 Health Plans Open Door Forum – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>18-20 Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Baltimore, MD)</p> <p>26-28 Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Las Vegas, NV)</p>
<i>August</i>	<p>1-3 Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Chicago, IL)</p> <p>3 Drug Benefit- Release of National Average Monthly Bid Amount and call for reallocation of rebates for MA-PD plans (if needed).</p> <p>3 Retiree Drug Subsidy – Retiree drug subsidy applications available to employer/unions.</p> <p>5 MA/Cost- 2006 Model EOCs will be available to all plans, MA and Cost via HPMS.</p> <p>9-11 Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (New Orleans, LA)</p>
<i>September</i>	<p>13-15 MA/Cost- MA organizations and, if applicable, Medicare cost plans, preview the 2006 MPPF plan data in HPMS prior to Internet release.</p> <p>14 MA/Drug Benefit—Tentative date for approval of packages.</p> <p>15 MA- MA Orgs should submit ANOCs and SBs for final review.</p> <p>15 Health Plans Open Door Forum – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>Mid Sept MA/Drug Benefit—Enrollment and Payment conference—Baltimore.</p> <p>30 Drug Card – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$300.</p> <p>30 Retiree Drug Subsidy – Retiree drug subsidy applications due.</p>

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<i>October</i>	<p>1-October 15 CMS mails Medicare & You for CY 2006, which will contain health plan benefit and cost information.</p> <p>1 MA/Cost- MA Organizations and Medicare cost plans may begin marketing CY 2006 benefits to Medicare beneficiaries using CMS-approved marketing materials. MA/Cost- MA Organizations and Medicare cost plans are required to include information in CY 2005 marketing and enrollment materials to inform potential enrollees about the possibility of plan changes beginning January 1, 2006.</p> <p>1 Drug Benefit- Marketing and enrollment of Part D benefits begin.</p> <p>13 New Plan Compare website goes live.</p> <p>13 Medicare Personal Plan Finder data goes on web.</p> <p>15 Cost- Final day for Medicare cost plan to send non-model ANOCs to CMS Regional Offices.</p> <p>21 Retiree Drug Subsidy – Retiree drug subsidy applications approved/rejected.</p> <p>27 - November 10 Autoenrollment mailing to dual eligibles.</p> <p>30 All organizations must cease marketing CY 2005 plans through public media.</p> <p>31 CY 2006 ANOCs (with SBs) are due to all MA members.</p>
<i>November</i>	<p>15 – May 15, 2006 Open enrollment</p> <p>16 Health Plans Open Door Forum – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p>
<i>December</i>	<p>1 Cost- CY 2006 ANOCs w/ SBs are due to all cost plan members</p> <p>17 MA/Cost Final day for MA organizations and Medicare cost plans to send non-model EOCs to CMS RO.</p> <p>31 Drug Card – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$150.</p>
2006	
<i>January</i>	<p>1 Effective date for 2006 plan benefits.</p> <p>1- June 30 Except under a Special enrollment period, current members may elect a change in health plans only once.</p>
<i>February</i>	<p>28 Retiree Drug Subsidy – Retiree drug subsidy payments begin.</p>